

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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U.S. INDICTS TWO FOR ILLEGAL TRADE WITH IRAQ

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of a two-count indictment against two U.S. citizens: JOSEPH THOMAS, 81, of White Plains, New York, and ANDREW HUANG, 59, of Middletown, Connecticut. The indictment charges that, from in or about mid-1999, up to and including in or about January 2002, THOMAS, HUANG, and other coconspirators agreed to assist a Chinese company, the China Electronic Systems Engineering Corporation ("CESEC"), contracts to supply telecommunications equipment to the Government of Iraq without first obtaining the requisite licenses under federal law. The indictment also charges THOMAS with lying to federal officials about this conduct in two interviews with FBI agents from on or about April 22, 2003, up to and including on or about May 22, 2003.

At all times relevant to the Indictment, THOMAS operated a company called Med-Tek International, Ltd., in White Plains, New York. HUANG operated a company called Mac Andrew's, Inc. in Middletown, Connecticut. THOMAS and HUANG worked together to obtain contracts for CESEC to supply telecommunications equipment to the Government of Iraq without first obtaining the requisite licenses from the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC").

THOMAS was arraigned Friday before United States Magistrate Judge HENRY PITMAN and was released on bail pending further proceedings. HUANG was arrested on April 21, 2006, in Connecticut on separate charges, and will be arraigned in New York on the new charges in the coming days.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Long Island and New Haven offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the New York

office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control; and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, in conducting the investigation.

 $\,$ Assistant United States Attorney STEPHEN A. MILLER is in charge of the prosecution.

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